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The Beaver

A Journal of Progress

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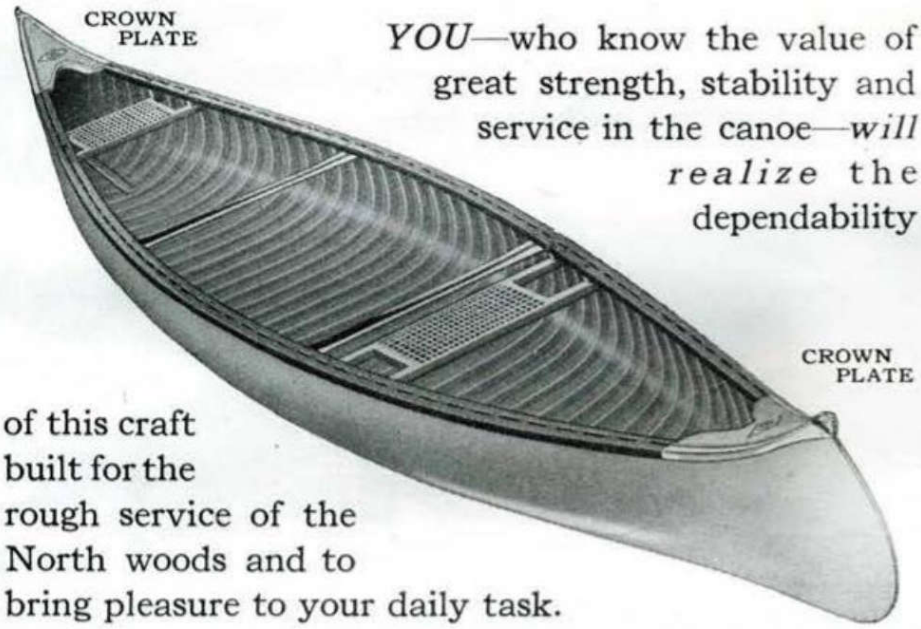

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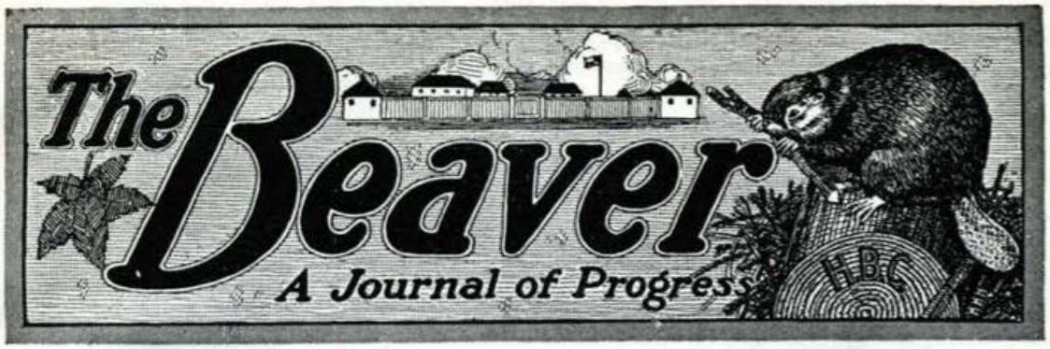

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(May 2nd, 1924, is the 254th anniversary of the granting of the Charter by King Charles II to "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay.")

AN EVENT

Two hundred years and fifty-four
You've stood the test of time and tide;
Still on the business sea you ride
Strong as the rocks upon the shore.

A WISH

Two hundred years and fifty-four
Your proud old flag has bravely flown,
Great pioneer! and, still our own,
We wish you twice two hundred more.

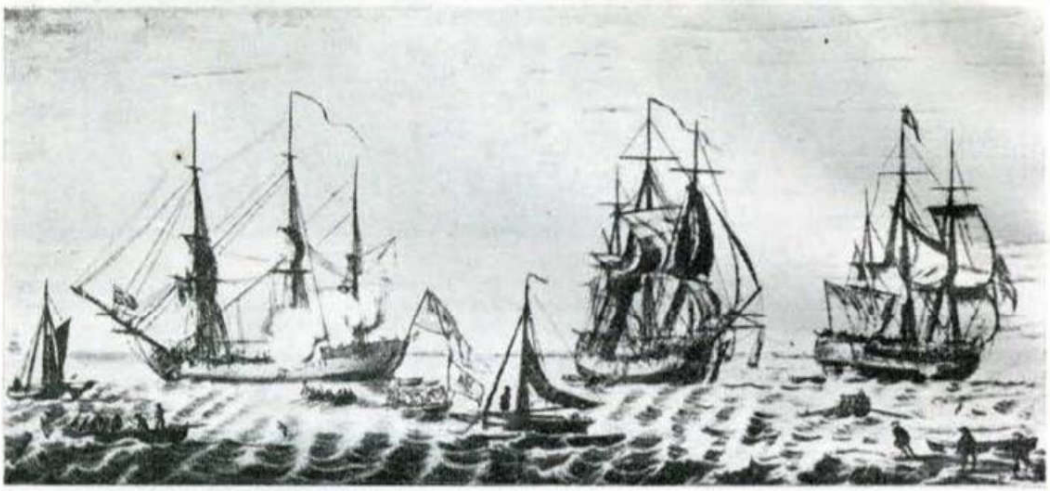
A GIFT

Two hundred years and fifty-four.
We who now serve a gift would bring
Of loyalty unfaltering,
Such as they gave in days of yore.

A HOMILY

Two hundred years and fifty-four.
Needless to shout the why *or* how.
Build on a sure foundation now
Ye who would reach two-fifty-four.

—Robert Watson



An Old H.B.C. Fleet

The Great Sea Fight of 1697

By J. PREST, Associate Editor, Edmonton

The following narrative has been compiled from extracts taken from the "Conquest of the Great Northwest" (Agnes Laut). The historic references are in the archives of Hudson's Bay House, London, England. The French also have records which bear true testimony as to their authenticity in the state papers of the marine archives. The Quebec Historical Society has other records relating to this sea battle between the English and French in 1697.

FRANCE having declared war on England, it was only natural that the French colony, Quebec, should throw down the gauntlet and seek to capture all lands held by the Hudson's Bay Company. Fierce sea battles took place for possession of the several forts on the shore of the Hudson Bay. These were captured and recaptured by the French and the English. The forts which surrendered were Nelson, New Severn, Moose and Rupert; Albany alone remaining in possession of the H.B.C. when the treaty of Ryswick put an end to the war.

This last sea battle was a fight to the finish amid storms and intense cold. A fleet was dispatched from France to sail to the Hudson Bay to regain possession of the H.B.C. forts, which the English again held. The squadron comprised five men-of-war—the *Palmier*, the *Profound*, the *Violent*, the *Wasp* and the *Pelican*. These ships reached the shores of Newfoundland after a stormy passage lasting three months, and on arrival Iberville took command of them.

The squadron left Newfoundland on July 8. By the 25th the ships had entered the straits amid bergs and floes. Iberville was on the *Pelican* with Bienville, his brother, two hundred and fifty men and fifty guns. The other brother, Serigny, commanded the *Palmier*, and Edward Fitzmaurice of Kerry, a Jacobite, had come as chaplain.

On the *Pelican*, Iberville's ship, forty men lay in their berths ill of scurvy. The fleet was stopped by ice at Digges' Island at the west end of the straits—a place already famous in the raiders' history. Here, the

ice-pans contracted by the straits locked the ships in an iron grip. Fog fell, concealing the ships from one another except for the ensigns, which showed all the fleet anchored southward, except Iberville's *Pelican*.

On the 25th of August, at four in the morning, the fog suddenly lifted. Iberville saw that the *Palmier* had been carried back in the straits. The *Wasp* and *Violent* had disappeared, but straight to the fore, ice-jammed, were the *Profound*, and—Iberville could scarcely believe the evidence of his eyes—three English men-of-war (the *Hampshire*, *Dering* and *Hudson's Bay*) closing in a circle round the ill-fated and imprisoned French ship. Just at that moment the ice loosened. Iberville was off like a bird on the *Pelican*, not waiting to see what became of the *Profound*, which escaped from the ice that night after a day's bombardment when the English were in the act of crossing the ice for a hand-to-hand fight.

On the 3rd of September, Iberville anchored before Fort Nelson. Anxiously he scanned the sea for the rest of his fleet. On the morning of the fifth, the peaked sails of three vessels rose above the offing. Raising anchor, Iberville hastened out to meet them and signalled a welcome. No response was signalled back. The horrified watch at the masthead called down some warning. Then the full extent of the terrible mistake dawned on Iberville. They were the English men-of-war—the *Hampshire*, Captain Fletcher, fifty-two guns and sixty soldiers; the *Dering*, Captain Grimmington, thirty guns and sixty men; the *Hudson's Bay*, Edgecombe and Smithsend, thirty-two guns and fifty-five men—hemming him in between the English fort on land and their own cannon to sea.

Counting the Canadians and the Indians taken on at Newfoundland, Iberville could muster only one hundred and fifty fighting men. Quickly, ropes were stretched to give the mariners handhold over the frost-slippery decks. Stoppers were ripped from the fifty cannon, and the batterymen below, under La Salle and Grandville, had stripped naked in preparation for the hell of flame and heat that was to be their portion in the impending battle. Bienville, Iberville's brother, swung the infantrymen in line above decks, swords and pistols prepared for the hand-to-hand grapple. De la Potherie got the Canadians to the forecastle, knives and war hatchets out, all ready to board when the ships knocked keels. Iberville knew it was to be a fight to the death. As he swept tight up, the *Hampshire* shifted broadsides to the French; and at nine a.m. the battle began.

The *Hampshire* let fly two roaring cannonades that ploughed up the decks of the *Pelican* and stripped the French bare of masts to the hull. At the same instant, Grimmington's *Dering* and Smithsend's *Hudson's Bay* circled to the left of the French and poured a stream of musketry fire across the *Pelican's* stern. Forty French were mowed down, but the batterymen below never ceased their crash of bombs straight into the *Hampshire's* hull.

For four hours the three-cornered battle raged. Ninety of the French had been wounded. The *Pelican's* decks swam in blood that

froze to ice or trickled down the clinker boards. Sails, mast poles and splintered davits caught fire and were soon a mass of roaring flame that threatened to extend to the powder magazines. The bridge was crumbling. A shot had torn the high prow away; still the batterymen below poured their storm of fire and bomb into the English hull. The fighters were so close, one old record says, and the holes torn by the bombs so large in the hull of each ship that the gunners on the *Pelican* were looking into the eyes of the smoke-grimed men below the decks of the *Hampshire*.

For three hours the English had tacked to board the *Pelican*, and for three hours the mastless, splintered *Pelican* had fought like a demon to cripple her enemy's approach. The blood-begrimed, half-naked men of both decks had rushed *en masse* for the last leap—the hand-to-hand fight —when a frantic shout went up.

The batteries of the *Hampshire* suddenly silenced. The great ship refused to answer to the wheel. She gave a quick, back lurch. Before the amazed Frenchmen could believe their senses, amid the roar of flame and crashing billows and hiss of fires extinguished in an angry sea, the *Hampshire*, all sails set, settled and sank like a stone amid the engulfing billows. Not a soul of her two hundred and fifty men (one hundred and ninety mariners and servants, with sixty soldiers) escaped.

The screams of the struggling seamen had not died on the waves before Iberville had turned the batteries of his shattered ship full force on Smithsend's *Hudson's Bay*. Promptly the *Hudson's Bay* struck colours, but while Iberville was engaged boarding his captive and taking over ninety prisoners, Grimmington on the *Dering* gained refuge in Fort Nelson.

In the fury and heat of the fight, the French had not noticed the gathering storm that now broke with hurricane gusts of sleet and rain. The whistling in the cordage became a shrill shriek warning a blizzard. Presently the billows were washing over decks with nothing visible of the wheel but the drenched helmsman clinging for life to his place. The pancake ice pounded the ship's sides with a noise of thunder. Mist and darkness and roaring sleet drowned the death cries of the wounded, washed and tossed and jammed against the railings by the pounding seas. The *Pelican* could only drive through the darkness before the storm—"the dead," says an old record, "floating about on the decks among the living." The hawser that had towed the captive ship snapped like thread. Captor and captive in vain threw out anchors. The anchors raked bottom, cables were cut, and the two ships drove along the sands. The deck of the *Pelican* was icy and bloody. The night grew black as pitch. The little railing that still clung to the shattered decks of the *Pelican* was washed away, and the waves carried off dead and wounded. The rudder was broken, and the water was already to the bridge of the foundering ship when the *Pelican* buried her prow in the sands six miles from the fort.

All small boats had been shot away. The canoes of the Canadians swamped in the heavy seas as they were launched. Tying the spars of

the shattered masts in four-sided racks, Iberville had the surviving wounded bound to these and towed ashore by the others. The men sprang into the icy sea bare to mid-waist as they had fought. Guns and powderhorns carried ashore in the swimmers' teeth were all that were saved of the wreck. Eighteen more men lost their lives going ashore in the dark. For twelve hours they had fought without pause for food, and now, shivering round fires kindled in the bush, the half-famished men devoured moss and gathered round in groups to warm themselves. They became targets for sharpshooters from the fort, who aimed at the camp fires. Smithsend, who escaped from the wrecked *Hudson's Bay*, and Grimmington, who had succeeded in taking the *Dering* into harbour, put Governor Bailey on guard. Their one hope was that Iberville might be drowned.

It was at this terrible pass that the other ships of Iberville's fleet came to the rescue. They, too, had suffered from the storm, the *Violent* having gone to the bottom, the *Palmier* having lost her steering gear, another ship her rudder.

Nelson or York under the English was the usual four-bastioned fur post, with palisades and houses of white fir logs a foot thick, the pickets punctured for small arms, with embrasures for some hundred cannon. It stood back from Hayes river four miles up from the sea. The seamen of the wrecked *Hudson's Bay* carried word to Governor Bailey of Iberville's desperate plight. Nor was Bailey inclined to surrender, even after the other ships came to Iberville's aid. With Bailey in the fort were Kelsey and both Grimmington and Smithsend, who had once been captives with the French in Quebec. When Iberville's messenger was led into the council hall with flag of truce and bandaged eyes to demand surrender, Smithsend advised resistance till the English knew whether Iberville had been lost in the wreck. Fog favoured the French. By the 11th they had been able to haul their cannon ashore undetected by the English and so near the fort that the first intimation was the blow of hammers erecting platforms. This drew the fire of the English. On the 12th, Serigny again demanded surrender, which was refused.

Serigny came once more from the French. Bailey was induced to capitulate, but, game to the end, haggled for the best bargain he could get. Neither the furs nor the armaments of the fort were granted him, but he was permitted to march out with the people unarmed, drums beating, flags unfurled, ball in mouth, matches lighted, bag and baggage, fife screaming its shrillest defiance—to march out with all this brave pomp to a desolate winter in the wilds, while the bushlopers, led by Boisbriant, ransacked the fort.

That the blow of the last loss paralyzed the Company need not be told. Of all their forts on the bay, they now had only Albany, and were in debt for the last year's ships. They had not money to pay the captain's wages. Nevertheless, they borrowed enough to pay the wages of all the seamen and £20 apiece extra for those who had taken part in the fight.

The Story of Linoleum

Recorded by F. S. GARNER, Associate Editor, Vancouver

LINOLEUM was first invented by Frederick Walton. He is still living. "About sixty years ago," according to a recent issue of the *Carpet and Upholstery Trade Review*, "Walton happened to squeeze a bit of dried paint found on a neglected paint can; he waved about it the wand of his mechanical genius and, presto! linoleum was produced.

"A few years before, he had become greatly interested in a floor covering known as 'kamptulicon,' which, though made in 1844, did not become popular until the London exhibition of 1862. It was made of India rubber, gutta percha, boiled oil and ground cork, all thoroughly mixed together and rolled into sheets about twenty-five feet long, but without canvas or burlap back. It provided an excellent floor covering, but the rubber made it costly and too deeply coloured. To secure a material less expensive, lighter in colour and having the essential characteristics of rubber was the problem uppermost in Walton's mind when he began aimlessly to knead the encrusted dry paint. The linseed oil in the paint could be converted into an elastic state by oxidization and made the foundation for a better and more desirable floor covering.

"Walton secured a series of patents for his methods of oxidizing linseed oil—that is, mixing it with suitable driers, spreading it in thin films on large surfaces and then exposing the films to heated air. Thus, rapid oxidization was induced and the oil quickly transformed into linoxein, an elastic, semi-resinous body having many properties in common with India rubber but much lighter in colour and far less expensive. In December, 1863, he patented his new product, which he called 'linoleum' (from *linum*, flax, and *oleum*, oil; linseed oil being obtained from the flax seed). It was made, as it still is today, of oxidized linseed oil, ground cork, wood flour, kauri gum, resin and colour pigments pressed on burlap."

From remote and varied sources come the raw materials from which linoleum is made. Raw jute, the basis of the canvas backing used in making all grades of linoleum, originates in British India; cork in Spain, Portugal and Algeria; flaxseed (from which the linseed oil is extracted) in the Canadian and American west, the Russian Baltic, Calcutta and the Argentine; kauri gum in New Zealand.

Jute fibres are dried and shipped from British India to Dundee, Scotland, where by far the largest percentage of jute canvas is woven, the climatic conditions being a favourable factor in the industry there.

Cork is a product taken from the cork oak. Trees yield their bark at intervals, but the first crop of stripping is not suitable for linoleum manufacture. The bark is boiled in large vats to make it more pliable, and, after sorting, is exported in full cargoes to the linoleum manufacturer.

The preservative properties of linseed oil are well known, it being the life of good paint. The oil is oxidized by exposing it to the air for long

periods. Oxidization is also accomplished by blowing air into it artificially. When this oxidizing process has completed itself, the oil turns from a liquid into a resilient, rubber-like substance that is particularly tough and wear-resisting.

Kauri gum, the fossilized sap of the New Zealand pine tree, apparently flows from the tree into the ground, for it is dug up, graded, and incorporated as an important ingredient of linoleum.

The oil, gum and other ingredients are then mixed into a cement, boiled and cooked, then poured into concrete moulds and allowed to cool before cutting into squares. In this state the cement forms the binder for carrying the linoleum surfacing materials.

The cork is now fed into a grinding machine. First broken into coarse pieces, it is ground and re-ground according to the grade required, some of it being called cork flour. Thorough mixing of the cement and ground cork is accomplished by passing both materials through a mixing machine. The mixing machine now delivers the incorporated cement and ground cork to the huge calendering machine located below. Operators at either end spread the mixture, and it passes between steel cylinders, each weighing approximately twenty-six tons. As they receive this *mix*, they press it firmly against the burlap base, which also has been introduced between the big rolls, and the two are securely pressed together.

The processes of curing the linoleum require many days. Batteries of cells, or huge stoves made of concrete, brick and stone, are ready to receive the goods as they pass along and are delivered into them. Sometimes miles of linoleum will be delivered into a single cell. The cell is closed and sealed, and the steam heat turned on through extensive piping systems, to be thus maintained for weeks as required. When curing is accomplished, the goods are ready for printing.

For printing solid masses of colour, separate wood blocks are used, for each colour, and for outlines, metal blocks.

The colours for printing are first tested carefully. Then with the necessary oils are ground between rollers until they are of impalpable fineness. Each shade must conform with tests and shades previously determined by expert chemists. All the oil used is carefully selected, boiled and treated, so that every yard of goods will be of uniform standard.

Huge printing presses, forty to eighty feet in length and of the required width to produce given widths of linoleum are employed. As the printing machine is operated, the action is automatic; one block prints, then another, these being regulated by cams operated by means of an eccentric. As the linoleum is automatically pulled forward, colours are printed one after another, and when the printed goods reach the cell they have been completed, with the exception of necessary drying and curing.

Short informative articles similar to above from members of the staff and friends on the merchandise in which they specialise will be welcomed.

Indian Mummification

By C. H. FRENCH, British Columbia District

THE Egyptians are not the only people who have mummified corpses to pass to future generations. The Tsinshean Indians of the northwest Pacific coast have also done this, but in a manner not premeditated. The Tsinsheans practiced burying their dead in caves; that is, if a cave was discovered, remote from chance of being interfered with by dogs, wolves or other wild animals, it was used to pile their dead in. Owing to their custom of drawing the knees well up under the chin and otherwise stuffing a body in the smallest compass possible, it did not take many caves to take care of a lot of dead.

Most of their burying caves were on the mainland, but there was one on a small island just outside Port Simpson harbour. I visited it in 1915, and found that all the bodies it contained were still perfect in form. The H.B.C. point blankets they were wrapped in were crumbled through age, but the moccasins on their feet, paint on their faces and hair on their heads appeared just as when first put there. The one I set up to take the accompanying picture weighed perhaps only twenty pounds and gave me the impression that the corpse, while retaining its original size, had lost its weight; that is, it had completely dried out.

Some years ago, I had a beautiful marten that had been trapped high up on a mountain and had frozen dry, retaining all its beauty and size, but the drying process had left it weighing only a few ounces. It was plain that this result was obtained only by the fact that flies and worms had not been able to work on it during the drying process. This then appeared to me to be the same reason why the Tsinshean corpses dried out in the way explained, and an examination of the cave showed it to be coated with sulphur crystals or other chemicals that would not allow flies or worms to work. It is most remarkable to me, because the cave is not thirty feet from the ocean and is perhaps in the most moist climate in all of British Columbia. Still these dried-out natives were in perfect condition after eighty years of undisturbed repose. Since my visit to take the accompanying picture, about ten of the bodies have disappeared and are perhaps even now well housed in some scientific institution.

Stephen Lafricain

(Gold Medallist with Two Clasps)

I WAS born on June 9th, 1843, at Rigolet, Labrador, a Hudson's Bay post in Esquimaux bay. My father was also in the service and left sometime in 1849 to take me south to Canada to be civilized. We left Rigolet in the Company's ship, but could not get out of the bay on account of the weather. That night a heavy storm arose, causing the ship to drag her anchors. She finally drifted onto the rocks and one sailor was washed overboard and drowned. The crew managed to lower a boat, in which we made a safe landing. When the storm abated, we started back for the ship, which was lying on the rocks, a total wreck.

Making the excuse of going down to the cabin for some of his papers, Captain Dunn shot himself through the head. His grief at losing his ship was too much for him. We took the captain's body back to Rigolet, where it now rests. D. A. Smith was then in charge of Rigolet post and later became governor of the Company.

We had to winter at Rigolet awaiting the next ship. We finally landed at Quebec in 1850. Going to Montreal, I was put to school and, some years later, I started for the United States. When the civil war broke out, I volunteered for service. I served round the Richmond and Petersburg fronts and in North Carolina till the surrender of General Johnston. I served in the 112th New York Infantry and in the Third Regiment of Infantry, New York Veteran Volunteers, under General Grant.

I came back to Canada and joined the Canadian volunteers in the winter of 1866, and took part in quelling the first Fenian raid.

I entered the Hudson's Bay service at Montreal on October 18th, 1866, on a three-years contract, and was sent up to old Fort Temiscamingue. The late Robert Hamilton was chief factor then. I went with Mr. Hamilton to Hunter's Lodge, a post on Lake Keppawayin.

In those days supplies were freighted all the way from Lachine with single sleighs. At open water, goods were freighted by large birch-bark canoes, a long, all-summer job. I remained a year or so at Hunter's Lodge, then returned to Fort Temiscamingue. Under the late Chief Factor Colin Rankin, I served many years. I finally retired in August, 1920, after forty-two years in the Company's employ. I was presented with the long service gold medal and two clasps during the 250th anniversary.

My mother's father was one Jordon, of Clarancia, and her grandfather John Brummfield, of London, England. They both served in the Company many years in the eighteenth century.

Lord Byron's Centenary

(January 22nd, 1788 - April 19th, 1824)

By QUIS SEPARABIT

GEORGE Gordon Noel Byron was born in Holles street, London, England; the son of Captain John Byron and Catherine Gordon, a Scottish heiress. It was freely and frankly stated at the time of their marriage that the captain's affections were centred in Miss Gordon's estates. Young Byron and his mother were left almost penniless; while his father fled to Valenciennes, France, to avoid his creditors, and died there in August, 1791.

Much has been written decrying Byron's private life. If, however, we *must* condemn, let us also be just. Byron senior was known as "Mad Jack Byron," and can be entirely eliminated from our calculations so far as his son's training is concerned. His mother was of an hysterical nature, and in her high-strung moments would chase her afflicted son with a poker and call him "a lame brat."

Byron could be led, never driven. Dr. Joseph Drury, the eminent head master of Harrow, described him as a wild mountain colt and, after a careful survey of the boy, decided to lead him by a silken string in preference to a cable. That the doctor was a good judge of youthful character is recorded in his distinguished pupil's own words: "He was the best, the kindest (and yet strict too) friend I ever had; and I look on him still as a father whose warnings I have remembered but too well though too late when I have erred, and whose counsels I have but followed when I have done well or wisely."

Byron's nurse, May Gray, and his half-sister stand out as examples of what women with pure, unselfish motives can do to influence men for good. Byron bitterly deplored the lack of parental training and control, which are the birthright of the poorest in the land—

> Untaught in youth my heart to tame,
> My springs of life were poisoned.

His marriage in some respects was equally as unfortunate as that of his parents. There were faults on both sides; and, while their matrimonial differences are to a certain extent shrouded in mystery, we get a general idea in *Don Juan* (the person whom we believe to be Lady Byron being portrayed under the name of Donna Inez). They separated in 1816.

Passing over his early education and his "first dash into poetry" inspired by Love's young dream, we find him at Cambridge. While there he published *The Hours of Idleness* in 1807. It was severely attacked in the *Edinburgh Review* in March 1808. Byron retorted the following year with *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*. In this remarkable contribution, not only the *Review* itself, but practically every literary person with any claim to eminence, including Sir Walter Scott and Wordsworth,

came under the satirical lash. A lot could be written on the faults of *The Hours of Idleness*, as well as on the tomahawk method of reviewing in those days, but sufficient to state that, unknown to Byron, Scott had remonstrated with the editor because, in his opinion, the poem "contained passages of noble promise." Also, Wordsworth is reported as saying in Charles Lamb's chambers in 1808: "These reviewers put me out of patience. Here is a young man who has written a volume of poetry; and these fellows, just because he is a lord, set upon him. The young man will do something if he goes on as he has begun. But these reviewers seem to think that nobody may write poetry unless he lives in a garret."

Byron took his seat in the House of Lords on 13th March. His chilly reception proved to be the turning point of his career: he came away with the fixed intention of travelling; and *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* is a direct result of that resolve. *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* was published four days after he took his seat. While this spirited outbreak must be regarded as the shadow of coming events that were indelibly to stamp Byron as one of the master minds of English literature, it is pleasing to note that he was very anxious to suppress it. In a letter to Scott with whom he formed a life-long friendship, he explains: "The satire was written when I was very young and very angry, and fully bent on displaying my wrath and my wit; and now I am haunted by the ghosts of my wholesale assertions."

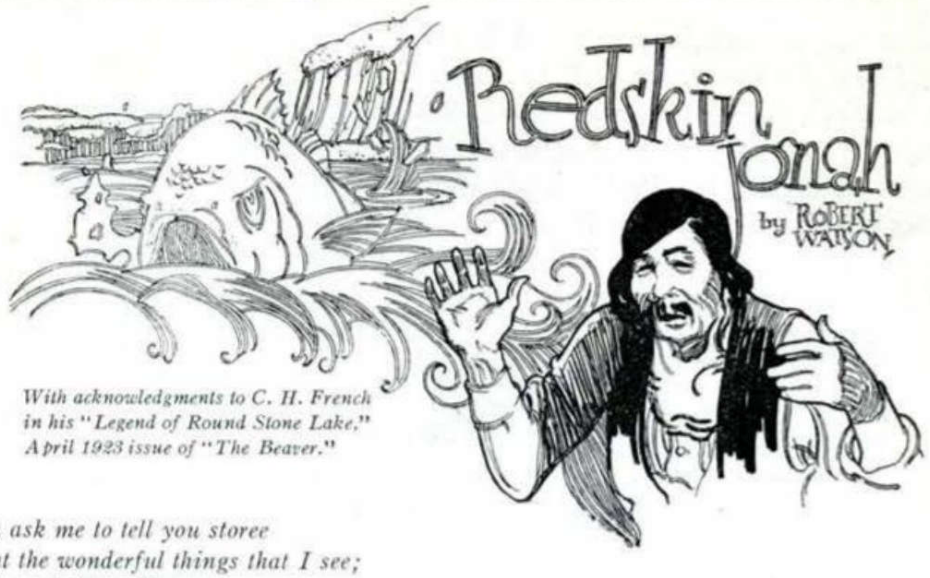
Byron's writings have had a marvellous effect on the Greeks, and his share in their war of independence will not soon be forgotten by them. The news of his all too early death at Missolonghi brought the following tribute from Scott:

"The voice of just blame and that of malignant censure are at once silenced; and we feel almost as if the great luminary of heaven had suddenly disappeared from the sky at the moment when every telescope was levelled for the examination of the spots which dimmed its brightness. It is not now the question, what were Byron's faults, what his mistakes; but how is the blank which he has left in British literature to be filled up? Not, we fear, in one generation, which, among many highly gifted persons, has produced none who has approached Byron in originality, the first attribute of genius."

When we realize that Scott's star was considerably dimmed by the meteoric appearance of Byron on the literary horizon, we get not only an impartial estimate of Byron, but the inestimable greatness of Scott himself.

Two years ago, and 98 years after his death, Greece showed her appreciation of Byron as recorded in *The Times* of 8th April, 1922:

"A few lots of furniture, etc., the property of Lord O'Hagan, were included in yesterday's sale at Sotheby's. . . . The most noteworthy lot was the camp bedstead used by Lord Byron through the Greek war up to the time of his death at Missolonghi. On being knocked down at £54, the purchaser stated that it was purchased for the ethnological museum at Athens, where it would be placed as a memento of Lord Byron."



With acknowledgments to C. H. French in his "Legend of Round Stone Lake," April 1923 issue of "The Beaver."

You ask me to tell you storee
'Bout the wonderful things that I see;
'Bout the time long ago
When they shoot with the bow;
When there wasn't no you an' no me.

All right! then I start an' tell you
'Bout the beeg feesh in Lake Nippegoo:
He so beeg, that his tail
Twice the size of a whale;
An' he swallow a birch-bark canoe.

In Lake Nippegoo, so I'm tole,
There's white feesh an' trout by the shoal,
But you nevaire feesh more
If you row from the shore,
For that beeg feesh he eat you up whole.

Now the son of the chief, long ago,
Get mad, an' he tole that feesh so;
For he nevair belief
That the son of a chief
Could be swallow like one lump of dough.

But the beeg feesh count heem just one more,
An' the meenute he leave from that shore,
Get heem an' canoe,
An' hees feeshing line too.
My gosh! how the beeg chief he swore.

Then the tribe get heap crazy inside,
An' go after that beeg feesh's hide;
So all round that lake shore
They make fires till they roar;
Then they gather beeg stones far an' wide.

They wait till the stones go red-hot;
Then they plump in the lake like a shot,
An' go on with this toil
Till the lake-water boil,
When they stand roun' to see what they got.

Gee, them Indian yell an' they hop;
For the beeg feesh he come to the top,
An' he float to the creek,
Where they cut him up—queeck;
An' the chief's son he tumble out—flop.

Ya, I know you go laugh in your bones.
You think what I tell you just blow'n's.
If you no belief too,
Go to Lake Nippegoo,
An' you'll see on the shore all the stones.

An' you say that the padre he know
This same little storee to grow
From hees Book. That not true!
For hees Bible quite new;
An' this happen a long time ago.

I guess maybe somebody hear
My storee, 'way back many year,
An' he grab line an' hook
For the good padre's Book.
Oh, they do eet sometime, don't you fear!

Buffalo Pemmican a la Mode

By H. M. S. COTTER

WHEN it became known here the real old-time buffalo pemmican could be obtained again, great interest was created among those who in the early days had seen much of it. The present generation know of it only through hearsay, but have been regaled with so many stories of its virtues and qualities from their fathers and grandfathers that to them eating buffalo pemmican was a treat.

On a recent trip we took a supply of this famed food, and one night decided that buffalo pemmican instead of bacon would be just right for supper. The driver, Joe, was asked to help himself. He did so with alacrity.

"My gran'father made fifty trips to York factory in York boats, an' all he lived on was pemmican," said Joe. "He was a strong man, my gran'father, you bet! an' nearly eighty when he died. He allus tole me jam an' butter an' molasses was no good, an' you can't carry nuthin' on that stuff! I'm glad to git buffalo pemmican; I'll run all night now, an' all day t'morrow an' all the next night. My gran'father said you can't stop working when you eat buffalo pemmican! By Jove! I'm glad to taste that stuff!"

With this general thanksgiving, Joe seized the axe and hewed off a chunk of pemmican commensurate with his voracious appetite. The piece he cut fell in the brush by the camp fire; he picked it up and went at it. Pictures of his forefathers running across hot portages with 500 pounds, ceaselessly chasing after dogs, and other Herculean feats of strength and endurance lit up his imagination. He had been eating and chattering for fully twenty minutes, the pemmican following the natural channels in big mouthfuls helped along with copious draughts of hot tea. Joe, always talkative, was gradually growing quiet, till at last dead silence reigned. He had also stopped eating.

"Hello, Joe; what is the trouble? Don't you want some more pemmican?" was asked. "No, thank you," he replied. "I've had 'bout enough."

"Don't you like it?"

"Well, no, not very much; I don't think them people at Wainwright made it the right way. My gran'father said there was lots of grease in it, an' Saskatoon berries, but I finds this very dry. I don't think I can run tonight after all."

"Let me have a look at it," said I. "Perhaps you have a bad piece."

Joe handed over the small portion left, and, to my utter astonishment, I saw that it was not pemmican at all, but a piece of black poplar bark three-quarters of an inch thick which, in the uncertain light, Joe had picked up and eaten instead of the pemmican.

A Woman's Arctic Log

By GLADYS O'KELLY

No. 3—Arctic Flora and a Strange People

THE arrival of the *Lady Kindersley* at Herschel was an historical event, as, since the early days of exploration, very few vessels flying the British flag have entered the Arctic by way of the Behring straits. The few that have were so small that the name ship was scarcely applicable, and it was with considerable national pride that we dipped the flag in answer to the salutes of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

On going ashore, I met Mr. Hall, district manager for the Hudson's Bay Company, also Inspector Wood, of the R.C.M.P., with his wife and little son, Dr. and Mrs. Doyle and a Miss Roberts who had come from Ottawa via McKenzie river and was waiting to go on to Bernard harbour to marry the Anglican missionary there.

Native igloos cluster closely round the Company's buildings at this post. They are made of frozen sod, wood gleaned from wreckage, and bits of old sail and skins. The smell of bad fish, seal and accumulated filth nearly overpowered me, and my husband well named the native section Rotten Row. Each family owned its five or six malemutes, which were tied at intervals to a rope pegged to the ground. They looked more like wolves than dogs and howled dismally most of the time. It was very noticeable from Baillie island east that the dogs were much smaller and the natives did not have so many.

Herschel island was at this time a carpet of flowers; a garden could not have grown them more densely. The predominating colour was blue; forget-me-nots on long slender stems stretched away as far as the eye could see. Lovely little daisies, mauve and yellow, reared themselves above the grasses: marguerites and painters brush, shaded from cream to a deep wine, swayed in the breeze and lent a riot of colour to the gently rolling surface. The Alpine poppy, too, with its yellow flower, thrives in this chilly clime, and all these plants mature with their little toes on the icy ground beneath. There are over sixty varieties of flowers, each of which grows in abundance, and I understand that with these flowers actual heat is unnecessary, and that the light pouring down on the plants day and night during the summer months is the main factor in their growth. Nothing in the way of vegetables or domestic plants can be cultivated, but about a hundred miles inland, cabbages, potatoes and the hardier vegetables do very well. Inland, during the summer months, it is extremely hot, even to a hundred degrees Fahrenheit, and this, coupled with continued sunlight, matures the plants with astonishing rapidity.

Shingle point was reached the day after we pulled out from Herschel island. The point was a city of tents, the natives having come in from their hunting grounds around the delta to await the arrival of the ship,

Photos by courtesy of P. H. Godsell

Types of Western Arctic Eskimos

for them the one great day of the year. They appeared to be very fond of sweets and consumed large quantities of jam, butter and sweet biscuits. The married women were tattooed in stripes on the chin, cheeks and forehead, while the older men had ugly gashes an inch or more long cut in their lower lips which once had held ivory ornaments. Not very pleasant dinner partners, I thought, since, if their ornaments are not in place, the food oozes through the slits when they eat. The labrets worn were of the utility kind; that is, they were not actual ornaments, but were worn to fill the holes in the lips. The ones worn as ornaments on festive occasions are often two or three inches in diameter and carved according to taste.

The Alaskan word *parka* now changes to *artegie*, which is of whaler origin. One little child, rolling in the dirt, wore one of beautiful mink skins. Under the *artegie* and against her bare back almost every woman carries a baby, the *artegie* being tied round the woman's waist to keep the little one from falling. One wee mite bobbed about in the mother's hood as it contentedly chewed a wisp of her hair. At the slightest whimper, the mother untied the string, leaned forward, and with a shake of her shoulders the baby would appear from beneath her skirt in front—a trick worthy of a conjuror. The mother would then sit on the ground, no matter where or how damp, while the little one, stark naked and possibly just six or eight months old, lay in her lap exposed to an icy wind which made me shiver in a tweed suit and a heavy beaver coat. After the child was leisurely nursed, the mother pushed it under her skirt and with a series of jumps and shakes skilfully got the baby into place again on her back.

All the sick people came to us for cures for their ailments and were delighted when they received a dose of castor oil, which they looked upon as delectable nectar. Those who were not sick trumped up some sort of

trouble with the expectation of getting something to tickle their palates. Pills and tabloid medicines were not in favour, so one old man who complained of a cough was given a dose of Worcester sauce and seemed quite satisfied.

Miss Roberts and I were the first white women to set foot on Baillie island, although a few of the natives had seen white women in the McKenzie delta. At Bernard harbour, the women stood in a group on the shore, and when I arrived they rushed toward me in a body, completely surrounding me. Some of them fell at my feet, minutely examining my brogues and spats, others felt and rubbed my beaver coat (a fur they had never seen before); my gloves were taken off and my hands examined with extraordinary interest. They were desirous to remove all my clothes, but I had this part of the performance stopped by an interpreter whom I called to my assistance. The children were then brought forward, but screamed with fright and ran away—not particularly complimentary.

These natives looked very wild and uncivilized, the male having the hair clipped short on the crown of the head, leaving a long fringe circling the lower part from ear to ear, while the women's frowsy, matted locks presented a most unkempt appearance.

The natives followed me everywhere and were rather a nuisance, especially the women, who offered a variety of rubbish to trade with everything I had on. To get rid of them I gave them needles and cigarettes, the latter being snatched out of my hand by one of the men. By gesticulation, I told him they were for the woman, but by most unmistakable signs he replied that she was his woman and that he had a perfect right to the present. I had to let it go at that, as women's rights have not yet been preached along those shores.

Canadian Crop Returns 1923

The final official estimate of field crop production last year places the total value at $249,213,740. The area under cultivation was 26,088,539 acres. The value of other farm products, including dairy, wool, game, fur, etc., is placed at $35,274,472. Wheat production was 252,622,000 bushels from 12,791,000 acres, an everage of 19.75 bushels per acre. There was a total yield of 218,075,000 bushels of oats from 4,898,771 acres, and average of 44.50 bushels per acre. Other cereals also gave good yields.—*The Last West.*

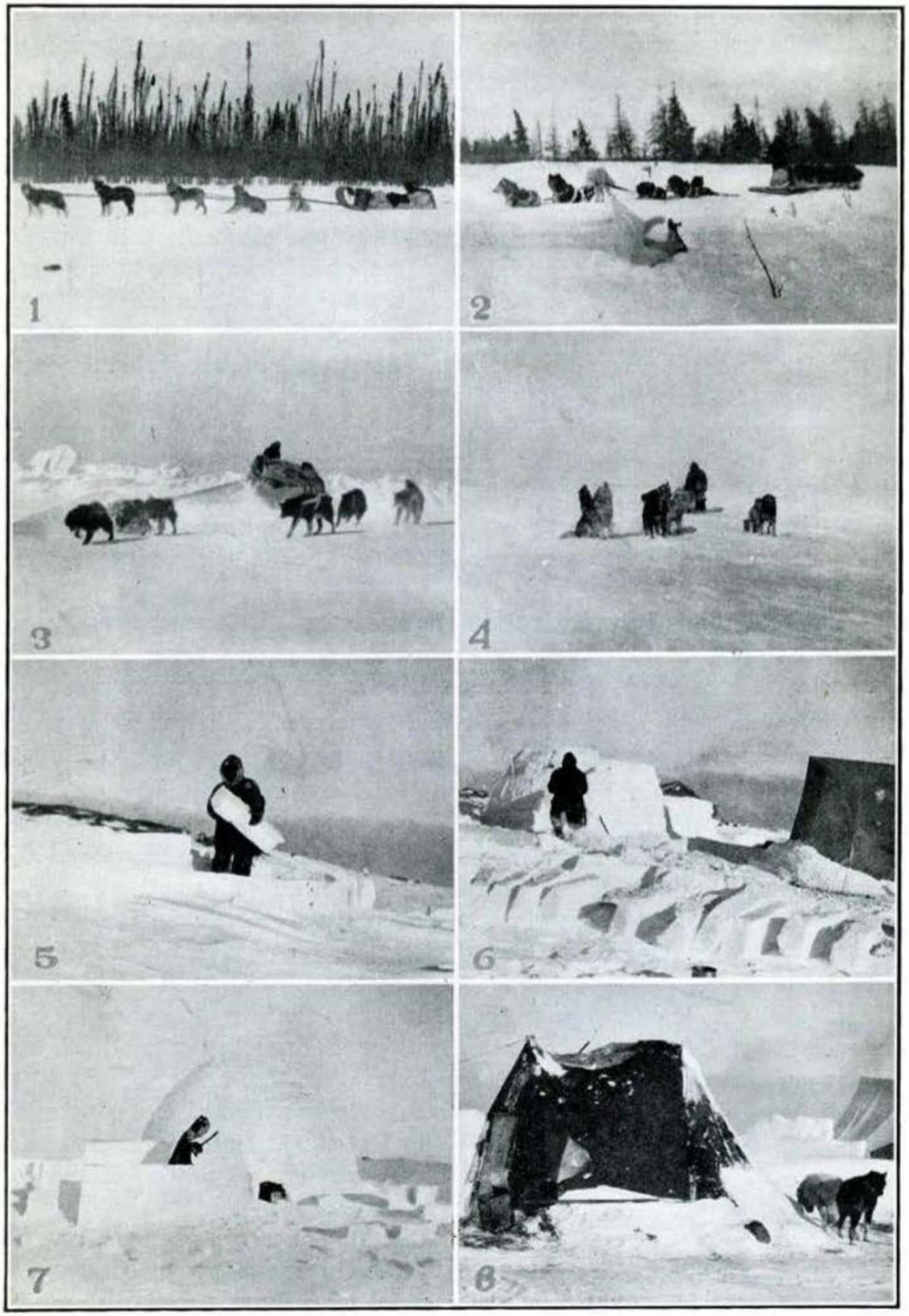
Artists' Competition

You are reminded that the competition for our artists, as detailed in March issue of "The Beaver" is still open. First competition closes May 31st, 1924; second. October 31st, 1924.

The Lone Northland

(A Story in Pictures)

By J. S. MOONEY, Hudson's Hope, B.C.



Microscopy of Textile Fibres

By H. DENNET, Vancouver Retail Store

SCIENCE has in many ways achieved that which a few years ago would have been thought impossible. It has played a very active part in the textile industry, and one of its greatest feats is in the manufacturing of artificial silk.

One of the first methods for manufacturing artificial silk was from gelatine. From this a very fine lustrous fabric was produced, but the material proved to be of little commercial value, owing to the brittle nature of the fibre, which rapidly disintegrated in the fabric.

Artificial silk is manufactured by obtaining a viscous solution which is forced through apertures and finally undergoes a process of hardening.

There are several ways of forming a glutinous solution suitable for the manufacturing of artificial silk, and one of the chief methods used is by the action of nitric acid on cotton, which causes a chemical reaction to take place and an organic product is formed known as nitro-cellulose.

Now the manufacturing of artificial silk at this present day has reached such a stage of perfection that it is more or less impossible to detect with the naked eye any difference between the artificial fibre and cultivated silk. Therefore, we have had to resort to the use of the microscope, and sometimes have to confirm our results by the aid of chemical reaction upon the fibre.

The real object in writing this article is to explain how one can detect by their characteristic physical and chemical properties some of the most important fibres employed in the manufacturing of textile materials.

Chardonnet silk is much coarser than natural silk and, under the microscope, the chief structure is the deep grooves in the fibre as seen in figure 1.

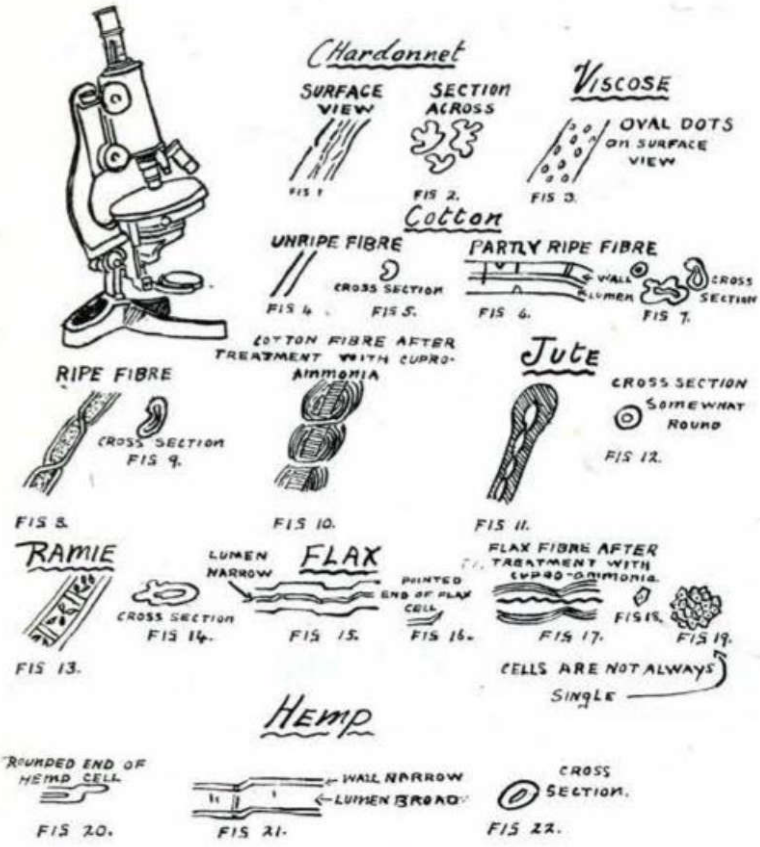
Cupro-ammonium silk is formed by copper sulphate treated with ammonia, and the thread is much finer than Chardonnet and possesses a diameter similar to cultivated silk, and even under the microscope it is sometimes difficult to detect cupro-ammonium silk from real silk, owing to the fact that there is on the whole very little external surface visible, but occasionally shallow grooves can be seen. However, we can confirm our belief by the aid of a weak iodine solution, which will enable us to distinguish this silk from any others, owing to the fact that the fibre will change to a reddish brown colour when the iodine solution is added, and when placed in water this colour will disappear.

Viscose silk is formed chiefly from cotton attacked by copper bi-sulphide, and as the substance is being forced through the apertures it leaves oval dots on its surface which gives viscose silk a good distinction from all other silks (figure 3).

We will now deal with the physical and chemical properties of cotton. Cotton is a typical vegetable fibre which burns differently from wool, leaving a clean burnt tip, whereas wool leaves a dumpy mass, and under

the microscope the cotton fibre, when ripe (figure 8), has the appearance of a flat twisted tube of spiral formation, and the centre of the cell is dotted on surface view. This is known as "lumen full."

Unripe fibre (figure 4) consists mainly of a rather narrow fibre and does not show a lumen on the surface upon examination. Partly ripe fibre (figure 6) is composed of a very narrow lumen and thick walls, and striations which are roughly horizontal. The structure of the cotton fibre is made much clearer when placed in a solution of cupro-ammonia, and this treatment causes the fibre to become swollen. When placed under the microscope (figure 10) one can see what is the cause of the beaded appearance of the fibre by observing the rings around the fibre. These are the cuticles which are left in places, while on the walls one can see fine lines. These lines indicate layers and are a record of growth. Other vegetable fibres employed in the textile trade are mainly jute, ramie, flax and hemp.



Jute (figure 11) is composed of a good amount of cells, making it coarse. The microscopic appearance of a single jute fibre is marked by the inner walls, which frequently meet but are rather irregular. The tip of a jute fibre is rounded and somewhat swollen. Jute is a fibre which is not a pure cellulose, and when placed in iodine solution it turns pale yellow or light brown in colour.

Ramie is the strongest and most durable of all other vegetable fibres, white in colour and has a very high lustre. It is not so elastic as wool and silk, therefore it yields a much harsher fabric and, owing to its gummy nature, it is very difficult to spin fine hanks. It has to go through various mechanical processes to rid it of the gummy substance. On the surface view of a ramie fibre under the microscope (figure 13) can be seen rather faint horizontal striations running across the fibre, and along the lumen there are usually clefts going in all directions.

Flax (figure 15). The flax fibre can easily be distinguished from all other fibres when placed under the microscope, because the side protrudes in an alternative manner. The commercial flax fibre is a pure cellulose. When flax has been placed in a solution of cupro-ammonia (figure 17) the microscopic appearance of the fibre greatly differs from figure 15, as the walls are much swollen and the lumen thrown into crimps.

Hemp (figure 21). The hemp fibre is somewhat similar in construction to flax, but is not so much liquefied as the latter mentioned. As a rule it is much broader and acts differently from flax.

A summary of differences between hemp and flax:

Flax	*Hemp*
1. Single or few fibres.	1. Large number in fibres.
2. Narrow lumen.	2. Broad lumen.
3. Cross bars less prominent in weak iodine solution.	3. Cross bars more prominent than flax in weak iodine solution.
4. Tips of cells are pointed.	4. Tips somewhat rounded.
5. Cross bars more prominent in chlor-zinc iodine solution.	5. Cross bars less prominent in same reagent.

There is a pure cellulose reaction in flax and only a slight colour change in hemp because it is not a pure cellulose.

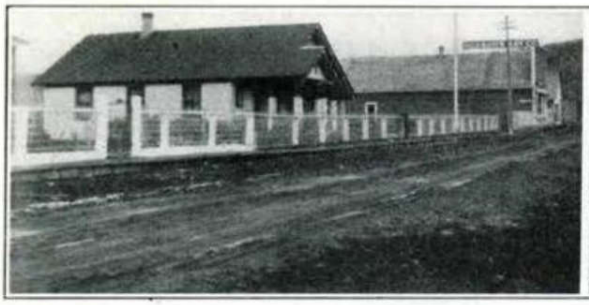
Effective Advertising

By H. POUT, Manager Vernon Store

The value of an advertisement depends largely upon its readability and the interest it creates in the reader's mind. A clever phrase does not necessarily mean good advertising. What appeals to the public is the plain unvarnished truth, which is a direct evidence of the soul of honesty. Tell your message in simple language; make it so that the reader can commit it to memory; make it interesting enough to demand the attention of the reader, and your advertisement will sell more merchandise than all the exaggerated headlines and wording you can think of. In short, you must have faith in the merchandise you are going to advertise. Write up a clean-cut story about it; make your advertisement appealing. A well-prepared advertisement will sell your merchandise.

Old H.B.C. Posts

Any authentic information in possession of the Company's servants and others regarding position, dates of founding, names of founders establishment, etc., of old H.B.C. posts now abandoned or still in operation (with photographs, if any) will be greatly appreciated for the purpose of historical reference. Communications should be addressed care of Editor, *The Beaver*, Hudson's Bay Company, 79 Main Street, Winnipeg.



Trading Store and Dwelling

Hazelton and Skeena Rivers

British Columbia Posts

No. 4—Hazelton Post

By C. H. FRENCH and WM. WARE, B.C. District

HBC moved into Hazelton in 1880.

ESTABLISHED in ~~1872~~ 1880 by those rushing into the country on account of placer gold discoveries in the Omineca. The Hudson's Bay Company acquired its location by purchasing the buildings and rights of one of these adventurers.

It was soon evident that the Skeena route was cheaper to haul freight over than the Fraser river route; therefore it was adopted, and until the completion of the Grand Trunk railroad, McLeod's Lake, Fort Grahame, Babine, Fort St. James and Fraser's Lake posts all got their annual freight by that route.

From 1872 up to 1893, canoes were the only carriers used, and one has only to know the swiftness of the water and the dangers of the canyons to realize what a difficult undertaking this was.

In 1893 the first steamer was built and, from this on to the advent of the railroad, Hazelton became the most talked of town in the interior of British Columbia. It was the head of navigation on the Skeena, the distributing point for Manson, Vital and Tom's Creek mines, and the Bulkley valley as well as Kispiox and north. It also became an important point in the Yukon telegraph line. All supplies to north and south were distributed with pack-trains from there.

It has a population of about 216 natives and 100 whites, Dominion government telegraph, general hospital, Anglican, Methodist and Salvation Army churches, public school, provincial district mining engineer, Indian agent, forestry men, and until recently had other government offices such as mining recording, police, etc.

Industries tributary are agriculture, mining, timber, big game hunting, and it is fur centre for all natives north and south.

It is on the Canadian National railroad, 177 miles east of Prince Rupert and at the foot of the famous Roche de Boule mountain.

News From Stores, Posts and Branches

The holiday season is almost upon us. Don't forget to take your camera along, and please remember to hand the results to our nearest correspondent for relaying to "The Beaver" office. Write your name and particulars, not on the photograph, but on a separate sheet attached.

We hope to publish several pages of holiday scenes during the summer and fall months, but we cannot do it without your co-operation.

Write up your holiday experiences in brief, bright articles. We need them.

Also, associate editors and post managers! Be zealous in sending along, month by month, the usual short, general news paragraphs of your store, post or branch. These are a feature of great interest to our general readers and should not on any account be omitted.—The Editor.

Vancouver

K. Currie, buyer for our whitewear and children's wear departments, left on her semi-annual visit to the eastern markets on Monday, 31st March. She will also make an extended buying trip to Europe.

—

MRS. DAVIES RETURNS

After a six-months sojourn in the southern metropolis, Mrs. Davies, late of the Hudson's Bay Company of Calgary and Vancouver, has returned to Vancouver and will assist Mr. Garner in the advertising department. While in Los Angeles, she was connected with the advertising department of the Broadway Department Store. Her enthusiastic impressions expressed upon her return regarding the splendid co-operation existing on their staff of over 2000 employees should prove most interesting.

Never an occasion (such as Armistice or Thanksgiving days) passes at the Broadway Department Store without recognition in the form of specially planned services, inspiring addresses and musical numbers by the store's choral society being a feature. Their choral society, by the way, is composed of about 150 voices, and employs a specially paid conductor from outside; each Wednesday morning between 8 and 9, previous to store opening, they meet on the roof garden for rehearsal, which puts the members in excellent spirits for the day's work, to say nothing of the splendid results of their efforts in successful musical engagements which they receive.

Their monthly store magazine, *The Broadway World*, is a worthy credit to this remarkable institution. Each department has its own reporter, and in this way a strong individual interest is maintained through its publication (proof of which is demonstrated in the intense eagerness of employees to obtain copies as soon as they come off the press).

Saturday mornings, previous to store opening time, finds the various managers of departments giving sales talks to the employees, which have proven to be of special benefit.

In Mrs. Davies' opinion, the whole atmosphere abounds with an unusual amount of enthusiasm and spirited co-operation, followed in turn by happiness and contentment throughout the entire staff.

—

WHY MAKE OUT WANT SLIPS?

Developed stocks are complete stocks. That is a sufficient reason for daily use of the want slip. One may question, "Why should I keep making out want slips when many of the articles called for are not placed in stock even after we list them?"

While your want slip is studied and tabulated in the merchandise office, the number of calls recorded may not justify adding the particular articles to stock. When a sufficient number of calls indicate a demand, the merchandise will be added. Every call should be as explicit as possible in detail of style, colour, size, etc.

"If the buyer tells me that the article on my want slip is on order and will be

in in a day or so, what good does it do to record such a call?"

It shows conclusively the demand for that particular merchandise and if the calls entered show an urgent demand the buyer will telegraph a rush order or the merchandise will be purchased elsewhere to fill in the stock.

"I don't believe the buyers like it when we put down calls on our want slips."

No sensible, aggressive or progressive buyer is so foolish as to offer any objection. It is to his credit to have his stock complete, and he has no other support equal to that of his sales-force. Do not for one moment imagine that you are lending him moral support by leaving any call off a want slip.

"Why should one enter a call day after day if the merchandise is not in stock? If I put it down once, isn't that sufficient?"

Decidedly not! Your entering it, as often as called for, shows the demand for the article recorded. Aim to have our stocks complete. Every call indicates a disappointed customer.

"Once in a while a customer will ask for something I have never heard of or something new on the market. It isn't necessary to put down such calls, is it?"

Yes! Those are just as essential as other calls. The adding of new merchandise brightens up a section and it pleases customers to find the "new things" in a stock.

"You don't want the ridiculous calls, do you? That is, colours or styles that are so extreme?"

What is considered ridiculous often becomes a much sought-after article. Such calls are often indicators of public demands. Yes, put down all out-of-the-ordinary calls.

"You wouldn't put down a call when you felt that it was impossible to get such merchandise as a customer asked for, would you?"

If the demands justify such merchandise as is called for, rest assured we will supply the demand.

"A customer called for a certain article to-day; we did not have it, but I sold her something else. Is it necessary to put down a call when we sell a substitute?"

Yes, absolutely! Credit, however, is due you for making a substitute sale, but the same stock condition will exist unless you record the "out" call.

"We are instructed to record such articles as we find are running low in our stocks. How shall we gauge such wants?"

When you find a stock is running low, you should enter it on your want slip in this manner—". . . stock low, only 11 on hand," or something similar. This gives the buyer a chance to fill in before a stock is depleted.

"Suppose I have merchandise for every call made during the day, what shall I do with the want slip?"

Write "no calls" on it, sign your number and pass it over to your buyer. A want slip must be passed in daily by every salesperson.

On staple merchandise, do not tell a customer we are out, until the buyer or assistant buyer is consulted.

Customers have a right to expect our stocks to be complete. It is evidence of poor merchandising to be short of an article we should have in stock. The want slip enables the salesperson to be an active member of the merchandise office in its endeavours "to develop stock and service to a notable degree."

Extracts from F. M. White's discourse in "The Bullock Way."

Victoria

F. S. Garner, advertising manager at Vancouver, recently paid his first visit to Victoria since the opening of the store.

Mr. Fraser paid a flying visit to Victoria store just previous to leaving on his trip to Europe.

—

A SURPRISE PARTY

A pleasant surprise was given Evelyn Pearce, of the stationery department, when on the evening of April 4th a large number of her store associates unexpectedly paid her an informal call. Music, games, singing and dancing were the order of the evening, the programme being kept up until the early hours of the morning. Everyone reported for work next day at the usual hour.

STORE DRESS

The dark costumes for salespeople will be continued during the summer months. This decision of the management is welcomed by the great majority of those concerned, the dark waists or dresses not only being more economical, but more business-like in appearance.

—

A SHOWER

On Wednesday evening, April 9th, at the home of Mrs. Palmer, 2068 Goldsmith street, a miscellaneous shower was given in honour of Florence Law. Miss Law was the recipient of a large number of useful gifts. Among the guests of the evening were: Mrs. Tasker, Mrs. Dakers and Mrs. Caldwell; Misses Kittie and Barbara Palmer, Kermode, Roff, Strange, Gosse, Washington, Anderson, O'Neil, Price, J. McDonald, Kempton and Mr. Woollard.

—

A 9 A.M. SMILE

Wouldn't it be great if such abstract things as smiles could be computed in figures?

Someone once said, "If I could purchase smiles to stick on the faces of my people, I'd have the happiest place of business in the world—and I'd have all the business of the city."

He felt that even the kind of a smile that might simply be a mask was far better than none. "For," he said, "if others see it, they too may be more inclined to smile, and, if everybody smiled even just once all together, you wouldn't need the mask any more. The smile would go so deep into the heart that it just wouldn't come off."

And this naturally leads to the suggestion that the early morning smile is the best of all. It starts the day right. And when the day is started right it's more apt to end right.

Then, the early morning smile starts all the others off better. Smiles are infectious—and such infection is worth a hundred per cent more at the start of the day than at any other time.

ONE OF OUR SPRING OPENING WINDOWS

The large corner window of Hudson's Bay Victoria store proved a great attraction during spring opening, causing much favourable and flattering comment. A background representing grey stone threw into relief the large sunburst panel in the centre, the spring atmosphere being furthered by tall baskets containing branches of apple blossoms. The floor was made to represent marble tiles, while in the centre stood a most realistic sundial of grey stone. The four beautiful models were dressed in black and white costumes in the latest spring styles, the accessories, such as furs shoes and hose harmonising with the most pleasing effect. The scene was exceptionally attractive at night when electrical rays gave the original representation of a setting sun.

—

SPORT NEWS

Football—The last eight matches in which our soccer team participated resulted in a draw and seven wins, a record which is really something to feel proud about. In the game between the Canadian team, which recently left here on its trip to Australia, and the Victoria All Stars, our own goal keeper, Percy Shrimpton, was one of those selected to represent Victoria. Had it not been for his brilliant play the Canadians, who played a splendid game, would have won by a far greater margin. To A. Haines, the manager of our team, went the honour of acting manager for the Canadians during their stay in Victoria.

Indoor baseball—Judging by the number of names received by the sports secretary, indoor baseball promises to be a highly popular pastime during the summer months. It is proposed to arrange a

series of inter-departmental or inter-floor matches, to be played on the new grounds at Craigflower. These matches should be the means of bringing out to Craigflower a large number of our employees who have not yet visited our new headquarters.

Tennis—Two splendid tennis courts have been leased for the coming season. They are in a central location near the Victoria high school. Intending players should get into touch with our sports secretary.

Cricket—Our cricket team has entered the Victoria Wednesday league and has obtained use of the Jubilee hospital grounds.

Nelson

L. H. Benjamin and M. J. Moulder, of the Winnipeg audit office, paid us a visit recently.

During the past month of inclement weather several members of the staff have been away on the sick list, but the epidemic is now on the decline.

R. F. Allen, superintendent engineer, from Vancouver, paid us a visit to make arrangements for the installation of an electric fan to ventilate the second floor. Those of the staff who have enjoyed several hot summers in the office and ready-to-wear department are looking forward to a cooler atmosphere. During his short stay, Mr. Allen also gave an eye to our mechanical apparatus and heating plant, and left us again the same day for points in the Alberta zone.

The season is very backward; the hills are still covered with snow, and every week we have a fresh snow flurry. Even at time of writing, April 14th, there was another three-inch fall, which is unusual in this part of the country for April. Several members of the staff are already preparing for the outing season. Boats have been repainted and varnished, fishing rods and lines have been given an extra polish, but it does not look as if they will be required for some weeks unless we get a sudden change to better weather.

Calgary

We regret to report the news of the death of John J. McLuckie, former employee of Calgary store and a prominent golfer. He died suddenly in the general hospital in Toronto recently. He had worked in the Calgary store for many years, being engaged as whitewear buyer for the firm. In Toronto he was a member of the Scarboro golf club and ranked as a very able player. John McLuckie was thirty-nine years of age and during his time in Calgary and Toronto was identified in athletic circles.

We have lost another old servant of the Company in Timothy T. Bowes, who passed away at Calgary March 25th. Mr. Bowes entered the Company's services at Calgary on July 11th, 1893, and was with the Company until July, 1919, when he fell ill and was forced to retire. Since that time we have kept in touch with Mr. Bowes, who always had a high regard for the Company and its services.

Alex. Blair underwent an operation for appendicitis recently, but is now fully recovered and back to work.

Miss Hannon, tube room cashier, has been absent from business for the past month on account of illness. At the time of writing, we learn that her condition has greatly improved, and we hope to see Miss Hannon back with us before long.

Bertha Wigmore, of the millinery department, has returned to her duties after an illness of six weeks.

T. Hall, of the retail tobacco department, is being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

J. Walsh, recently of the Calgary shoe department, left for Winnipeg last month to take a position as manager of the Hartt shoe store there. We had a letter from Joe the other day, together with a parcel of some special Winnipeg candy. We wish Mr. Walsh every success in his new position.

The first semi-annual hosiery sale was held March 28th to April 5th and was a decided success. The quality of the merchandise and the price at which it was

sold proved very great attractions to the public and drew a great deal of favourable comment. Miss Patton and her assistants are due a great deal of praise for the able manner in which they conducted the sale.

Maude Pryke, who has seven years' service with the Company to her credit, left to take up a position with the Regal golf club as manageress of the golf clubhouse. Upon leaving, she was presented by her friends in the store with a very pretty sweater.

R. W. Mason, credit manager of the Calgary store, was the successful competitor for a gold watch in the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association competition held during the year previous to April 1st. This competition was open to all credit managers who are members of the C.C.M.T.A. and the award was made for contributions of useful information of a credit nature and for information regarding business changes, business standings, new business openings, etc. The competition was open to all Alberta members and, in view of the fact that there are two hundred members, it is very worthy of comment that Mr. Mason should gain such distinction. The presentation was made at the annual meeting in our dining room on April 14th.

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MILLINERY SALES CONTEST

A new contest idea was carried out in Calgary in connection with the millinery department sale during the week of March 24th to 29th. The endeavour was to stimulate sales in this department previous to regular Easter business and to bring to the notice of the public our advanced spring offerings. The scheme was in the nature of a suggestive sales idea and was carried out very successfully by Mr. Warren, our advertising manager. Little cards, about the size of calling cards, were printed to read as follows: "This is Hudson's Bay millinery week. A good time to buy your new spring hat. Special offerings all this week." Space was provided on this card for the department name and sales clerk's number. These cards were then passed among all members of the selling staff. Lady customers in the departments were then reminded of the special millinery sale and were handed one of these introduction cards by the sales clerk. These cards had the name of the sales clerk and number for identification purposes. If this customer visited the department, presented this card, and ultimately purchased a hat, credit of this sale in the contest would be given to the sales clerk who handed this customer a card. Prizes for the three sales clerks turning in the largest amount of business in this way were $15, $10 and $5 hats. The first prize was won by Mrs. Brown, ladies' underwear department. She sent in thirty-two actual customers, who purchased hats to the total value of $218. Miss Stevenson was second and Mrs. Kerr third. These two were ladies in our ready-to-wear department. The contestants were very enthusiastic and the prize winners are to be complimented on the result of their efforts.

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TELEPHONE ORDERS

The telephone business that comes into the store should be given careful attention, and by developing and careful handling would amount to a great deal. Endeavour is being made at the Calgary store to increase this side of the business. Records are being kept of the actual business that comes over the 'phone. In connection with this, the pay envelopes have been used for multigraphing little notices to the staff urging greater care to 'phone orders. We would appreciate suggestions from the other stores regarding the handling of telephone business.

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TEN COMMANDMENTS OF THE HIGHWAY

Thou shalt drive on the right side of the road; for, know ye, it is as good as the left.

Thou shalt slow down when approaching a cross-road; for verily it is nearly as dangerous as a railroad crossing.

Thou shalt look out for children; for what the little one will do next surpasseth understanding, and verily men will decide you are at fault if thou strikest one.

Remember thou assisteth and hindereth not the traffic officer; he is there for your good; yea, verily he has a tough job.

Thou shalt see that thy lights be not defective, nor glaring; for verily harsh words are caused by driving into a blinding glare.

Remember thou shalt read and obey the warning signs; for, know ye, they are not put up as ornaments.

Thou shalt not speed; if thou feelest the impulse, do it where it killeth none but thyself.

Remember thou hast all thy wheels off the pavement when making thy repairs; and thou shalt stop where thy car may be seen from both directions; otherwise thou might stop longer than thou didst anticipate.

Thou shalt not turn a corner speedily; for, as certain as night followeth day, it becometh a straight road to the hospital. Neither shalt thou race a street car, nor attempt to pass it while it stand..h; for verily the day arriveth when the jury will call it manslaughter.

Thou shalt at all times use discretion; even if ye have the right of way, it will not bring back life.

Vernon

L. H. Benjamin, of Winnipeg audit office, has been here on Company's business.

R. F. Allen, superintendent engineer, also visited Vernon on repair work and inspection.

April has been cold, with unusual snow and one severe blizzard.

Our spring opening was held on April 4th and 5th, unfortunately in very cold and unspringlike weather.

Delegates from Vancouver and other associated boards of trade visited Vernon recently in connection with the Fruit Growers' Association. Many orchards have changed hands this spring and it was feared a number of growers would go over to the independents, but we look to the association carrying on this year with a large percentage signed up. Otherwise the fruit business is likely to suffer for a year or two.

Jack Beatty, house furnishings, visited Vancouver to meet Mr. Fraser and arrange requisitions for fall, 1924, china, etc., also to buy for immediate requirements.

Edmonton

POPULAR EMPLOYEE TO BE MARRIED

We regret to announce the departure of another of our faithful employees. For the past three years Nellie Nicholson has been employed as saleslady in the hardware and silverware sections and later as stenographer in the advertising department. During this period she has endeared herself to a host of friends. A real enthusiast in all branches of sport and always to the fore in the store's social activities, her absence will be keenly felt apart from her efficiency in her daily business routine. Her popularity throughout the store was evident from the many good words which were expressed when it became known that she was leaving us.

Miss Nicholson was presented with a silver cake basket in behalf of the members of the Hudson's Bay Co's staff by Mr. Cunningham (superintendent). Best wishes are extended to her upon the threshold of her new life.

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Mr. Sexsmith, department manager of the drug and toilet goods section, has returned from a buying trip in eastern markets.

Mr. Smiley, we are pleased to announce, is once more around after a serious operation which confined him to the hospital for three weeks.

Mr. Higgins has returned from the eastern markets, buying for the furniture and carpet departments.

Miss McLeod, recently secretary to Mr. Parker, general manager of the H.B.C. Alberta stores, is now acting in the same capacity for Mr. Cunningham, superintendent of the Edmonton store. We are pleased to welcome her to our staff.

Miss Kate Macrae is filling the position as stenographer in the advertising department left open by Miss Nellie Nicholson. It is said that Katie is a regular wizard at typewriting.

Mr. McVicar, department manager of the ladies' shoe section, has been confined to his home through sickness for the past two weeks. We are all pleased to see Mac back again on the job looking little the worse.

Extensive preparations are being made to put over the anniversary sale with a bang during the first week of May. Several meetings have been called by the manager to discuss plans, etc.

Credit is due to Clem Digney, display manager, for the excellent windows which were responsible for winning first prize during the horse show week.

Mr. Cook is the newly appointed department manager of the men's and boys' clothing section, coming to us from London, England, where he held several responsible positions in a like capacity.

H. G. Munro, manager of the store, succeeded in carrying off no less than eleven prizes at the Edmonton horse show with his string of horses, which were entered for various events.

Miss Ethleen McEwen is still confined to her home after the operation on her foot. Latest reports say she is progressing favourably.

The following are newcomers to the store whom we are pleased to welcome: Misses Potts, Ridell and Young, millinery section; Miss Muriel Hawley, music department; Mrs. Langley, ladies' ready-to-wear; Mr. Allsop, hardware section, and Mr. Holgate, men's shoes.

Harold Love, of the shipping room, and wife (*nee* Miss Ada Larson), of the general office staff, left for Seattle, where they will make their future home. They left behind them a great many friends and well-wishers.

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SPORTS

Plans are well on the way for the formation of our tennis club, and also for the girls' basket ball team. It is the intention of the executive to enter again the basket ball team in the ladies' mercantile basket ball league. We are fortunate in having three new players who will greatly strengthen our aggregation of hoop artists—Kate Macrae, Jean Robertson and Freda Cooper, who will don the familiar green and gold uniforms as representatives of the "Bay." These new players, together with the other members of last season's team, will put us in the running for the Hudson's Bay challenge cup. Eight teams were entered for the league last year and it is expected that this number will be exceeded for the coming season.

Edmonton is truly a city of basket ball enthusiasts, for we have the unique distinction of holding the world's ladies' basket ball championship for two years, and expect to hold it against all comers during the coming season. This honour belongs to the commercial graduates' team, managed and coached by Percy Page, of this city. Teams from Toronto, Chicago and Cleveland are due to arrive in Edmonton during the next few weeks to compete for the coveted trophy.

At least three of the Grad's team were former members of the mercantile basket ball league, plainly showing that excellent material is available in the league's various units, of which the "Bay" is a part.

Wouldn't it be a grand idea if it were possible for the Hudson's Bay Co's stores to meet each other in competition for a cup? Let's hope some one will come along willing to finance such an undertaking.

Jack Prest, our advertising manager, will again manage our team for the coming season.

Lethbridge

Recently we celebrated fruit week, and the largest single purchase of fruit ever made in the city was made by our grocery buyer for this special selling event. Here is the purchase: 8,000 grape fruit, 9,000 lemons, 32,000 oranges. These may not seem very large quantities for some of the larger stores, but you will no doubt be surprised at the comparison with the city's population. There were purchased approximately one and a half grape fruit for each individual in this city, one and three-quarters of lemons, and three oranges. During the first day of this sale the disposition amounted to 1000 lemons, 1000 grape fruit and 12,000 oranges.

We wish to welcome J. Goldie to the shipping department.

The young ladies of the staff were all sorry that Lewis Leigh's right arm was not in condition for the last dance.

The Lethbridge H.B.A.A. held their annual business meeting and banquet on April 2nd in St. Augustine's hall. At 7 p.m. a large number of members sat down to tables full of good things, and then immediately followed the transaction of business and planning for the coming summer season. The tables were cleared and the balance of the evening was spent in dancing mingled with a special programme of music. Solos were beautifully rendered by Miss Gwinn Thomas, Messrs. J. E. Thompson and Ashbrook. An amusing and most entertaining musical sketch entitled "The Drum Major" was very well performed. G. Thomas, as the Drum Major, N. Thomas, as commander of the Awkward Squad, which was made up of several of the young ladies in military dress, were most heartily received and brought rounds of laughter. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: President, W. L. Ogden; vice-president, Miss. L. Reeves; secretary-treasurer, Miss I. Jones; executive, Misses Weir, Thomas and Conn and Messrs. Robertson, Leigh and Thompson; entertainment committee, Miss Wilson and Messrs. Thompson, Thomson and Sangster.

Saskatoon

Retail

We welcome Misses Baker, Gubbe, Daleesh, Helmkay, Rankin, and Munroe, Messrs. Taylor, Robinson and Nagg to our family.

Miss Brockington is very much at home in her new job in the beauty parlours.

Harvey Campbell is much missed in the grocery department.

Miss McIntyre, who has been ill for the past week, is now progressing favourably and will be back to work in a few days we hope.

Misses McCormick and McKie and Mr. Rush are also on the sick list. We are glad to hear they are all getting along nicely.

Miss Saunders is replacing Miss McCormick in the post office.

How come, wholesale? Latest report—twelve kittens arrived, all doing well! Last month we reported two children; seems to be 'kats or kids'."

On March 17th the girls of the H.B.C retail gave a miscellaneous shower to Miss Vera Allan, an ex-employee. The shower was held at Miss Hurling's home, 224 Avenue O, south. There were about thirty girls present and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Miss Allan received a number of beautiful and useful gifts. Miss Allan's marriage to E. B. Johnson, of the H.B.C. wholesale, will take place on April 22nd at 8.30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Tyrell, 1509 Loran Avenue.

We understand a member of the office staff has notions that the notions ought to be deprived of its "Fountain." What an idea! The engagement, we believe, has not been announced but Miss Fountain is wearing a very nice ring on the finger which is supposed to have direct connection with the heart.

The second dance of the season, which was held at the Art Academy on March 18th, was a real success. Art Harmony Five rendered their usual good selection of music. There was a jolly good crowd

and an abundance of refreshments. The next dance, to be held on May 1st, is looked forward to with pleasure.

Spring is here! The boys are turning out on Good Friday morning to practice baseball—the married against the single men. Let us hope they keep up the good work.

—

A TRUE STORY

Overheard in the linen department.

Clerk at the telephone—"Yes, this is the staple department."

Customer—"Hudson's Bay stables?"

Clerk—"Yes, staples!"

Customer—"Send me two loads of fertiliser."

Clerk—"Pardon?"

Customer—"Is this the Hudson's Bay stables."

Clerk—"Yes, linen department, cottons, etc."

Customer—"Oh! I want the Hudson's Bay STABLES!"

Saskatoon

Wholesale

Here is a letter received recently from a Chinese customer regarding an account overdue:

"Gentlemen—I in receipt your letter of this inst. and stated that opposed of the balance past due, then cancelled of that order might is right. On my opinion consideration that way is unsatisfaction to me because I been saying the business little so quiet for winter of few month not clear the balance and not have the order for goods not much. I am very sorry on that too, but my business would not be slack on summer and the town will be improving this year I think, because the have some building going build on this year. And the debt on my business is very small. Now then wish you make a statement to show of so much bl. I owed, from Dec. 30th 1923 to ended March 1924, make credit on empty bottles of Feb. 13. your truly."

Yorkton

H. N. Louth, manager of the store, T. H. Glover, of the men's furnishings, and N. S. McMillan, of the dry goods, were in Winnipeg for a few days on a buying trip.

Mrs. Vass, of *Butterick Patterns*, spent about ten days with us demonstrating the use of dress patterns, and we are pleased to report a boost in the pattern department.

The spring exposition held here last month was a great success. Light refreshments were served in the afternoon to all the ladies visiting the exposition and everyone expressed admiration at the dainty and pleasing appearance of the arrangements.

—

INTERESTING EXHIBIT

Crowds of people a few weeks ago could at different times be seen watching a very interesting exhibit in the window of the Hudson's Bay Company of Yorkton. A dairy cow having the motions of a live animal could be seen eating hay. In a very realistic manner she puts her head down from time to time for more food, while she was chewing continuously. At the same time milk was continually flowing from the cow and appeared to go through different processes in order to become milk product foods. All this, as shown, helps the farmer financially and assists in securing for his family an education and other needs of life. The people also were continually moving, which made a very interesting spectacle. There were also moving printed notices which emphasized the value of dairying.

This novel exhibit has been prepared by the department of agriculture and was recently shown in Moose Jaw. Mr. Calvert, manager of the Co-operative Creamery here, was instrumental in securing it for Yorkton.

No general store news briefs this month from Vancouver, Victoria and Kamloops.

Winnipeg
Retail Store

OUR REMODELLED WINDOWS

The remodelled windows are now complete and bring forth unbounded praise from all beholders. Polished wood floors a foot or two lower than formerly, mahogany panelled backgrounds, brilliant lighting, together with quality merchandise tastefully arranged, cannot help but reflect in increased interest in our departments. The Easter displays were most artistic, as also was a complete set of black and white windows shown toward the end of the month. Mr. Fisher, on his return from New York and other large American cities, remarked that he had seen no finer displays anywhere.

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By the time this appears in print, the great anniversary celebration will be under way. Our slogan "Once a Year Bigger and Better Every Year," bids fair to be exemplified once more. The annual birthday party this year took place on April 28th, when every member of the big store family enjoyed tremendously the good fare, music, entertainment, cards and dancing. We will be able to report the doings more fully later; suffice it to say that this great get-together, one of the "red letter" events of the year, was a huge success from every viewpoint. As a means of creating enthusiasm for the annual sale, it is always a winner, doing wonders for the success of the celebration.

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BLOSSOM TIME

"Blossom time" in the silk shop during April consisted of a clever and timely featuring of spring silks concurrently with the playing of "Blossom Time" at the Walker theatre. The silk shop was bedecked with blossom-coloured silks and lovely artificial spring-time blossoms in matching tones, forming a most attractive display. One day's ad. was given over to the silk shop, showing a picture of the department with apple blossoms trailing down the page through the copy. Different silks were featured and priced under such captions as narcissus, lilacs, apple blossoms, violets, daffodils, etc., the copy referring to the flower hues of the various silks. Results in increased interest in the silk shop well repaid the trouble in planning and carrying out this unique scheme.

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SPRING SALES

The decidedly unseasonable weather of April and around Easter militated against the expected volume of spring sales. Prior to Easter, the temperature was decidedly cold, and to cap all Easter week was ushered in with a blizzard and the heaviest snowfall of the winter. Thus, "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley," as Robbie Burns once said. Special advertising, attractive window displays and departments replete with new merchandise were to a great extent prepared in vain, but "'tis an ill wind that blows nobody good"—what was the store's loss was the farmers' gain, the moisture being hailed with much satisfaction in the country. Should it help to produce a bumper crop, then it will react to our advantage in the fall.

—

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mr. Barker, of the grocery department, who recently was bereaved by the death of his wife.

Sincere sympathy was felt by all for Monica Watson, cashier, on the death of her mother early in April; the more so that it leaves her without parents, her father having died several years ago. The fact that Monica has been with us for ten years makes her loss more deeply felt by all of us.

Fred Holloway, of the grocery department, has been confined to his home with an affection of the skin for the past six or seven weeks. His many friends hope to hear of his early recovery.

Hetty Shaw, one of our most popular sales ladies, has been missed for some considerable time from the neckwear department, due to a nervous breakdown. Everyone hopes she will soon be rested up and back "on the job" her old smiling self.

The entire staff is glad to see Mr. Cooke, our district general manager, around again after his absence of about three weeks, due to a minor operation.

Mr. Fisher, merchandise manager, took a hurried trip to New York during April, stopping off at Minneapolis, Chicago, Toronto and Montreal. He made some good buys for the anniversary sale and for the novelty departments.

Miss Woodhead was east also for several weeks during April buying women's ready-to-wear.

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SURPRISE PARTY TO MAY BRYSON

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McDougall, Lipton Street, a surprise party was given in honour of May Bryson, of the lace department, who is leaving for the east. During the evening a presentation was made of a gold Eversharp pencil and a bouquet of American Beauty roses from the girls of the department and friends in the store. This was followed by dancing and cards. Among those present were: Misses Bryson, C. Drake, P. Young, P. Mason, E. Welsh, B. Morier, A. Scotland, A. Claney, H. Pears, M. Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. McDougall, Mrs. and Mr. F. Simpson, Messrs. P. Leitch, J. McDougall, C. Horne, A. Muys and A. Leitch.

—

"MUSIC HATH CHARMS"

Those who stay awhile after 6 p.m. are regaled with the strains of sweet (and otherwise) music, two or three nights each week. It is the Hudson's Bay orchestra practising. Mr. Fisher was instrumental (no pun intended) in starting the band and has gathered around him a small group of enthusiasts who will soon be enjoying quite a reputation in local musical circles. They can perform very creditably already, although formed barely six weeks, and they were the recipients of hearty congratulations on their "peppy" playing the night of the big anniversary party. The members are: W. J. Hughes, pianist and leader; P. Harrison, violin; G. Foster, violin; G. Avison, saxophone; T. Dickens, trumpet and saxophone; F. Fisher, banjo; G. Niven, drums.

SPORTS

Curling

After days of impatient waiting owing to a thaw, two of the three rinks that were tied for leadership have at last locked horns.

A. Mills handed F. Parker rather a decisive defeat, winning his game 14-3.

Mr. Mills entered the arena, this time against G. Bowdler. But fortune deserted him, and George Bowdler piled up points steadily. The game ended 16-3, leaving George once more the champion.

The personnel of the winning rink is as follows: B. Bolt, W. H. Davison, G. Niven, G. Bowdler, skip. The losing rink: G. Foster, O. E. Carter, G. Payne, A. Mills, skip. So ended a most successful season.

Bowling

We are discovering some very promising talent from the store, the land department and the wholesale. The members enjoy a healthy, vigorous time every Thursday evening at the Y.M.C.A. Sam Beggs, the retail expert, is still the class of the club, but he must keep going for there are two or three right after him—such as C. Healy, who scored 185, and S. Brooks, with 178. The club will be pleased to welcome anyone interested in bowling at their Thursday gatherings.

Golf

Hudson's Bay golfers are bemoaning the late start of the season due to unsettled weather. At time of writing, April 19th, play has not begun generally on any local links. One or two ultra-enthusiasts got in a few holes toward the end of March. Since then snow, cold and wet greens have been the cause of disappointment.

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THE MAN FROM MEXICO

"Jimmie," late assistant timekeeper and storeroom clerk, who left us in January for Mexico, recently wrote Mr. Fuller. We have made some extracts from this letter which we feel sure will interest many.

"Times are bad here owing to the revolution. These rebels, having no funds, come to the camps and commandeer anything they want. I haven't got any work yet, but I help my brother and get three

square meals a day. Mexican food suits me, as I am sixteen pounds heavier than when I left Winnipeg. I am busy learning Spanish. When I know it better I shall try my luck in the oil fields.

"I am enjoying myself horse-riding, shooting and night-hunting for deer. I have killed one already. Between the sea and the lagoon here is thick jungle, where there are tigers. I haven't seen any yet, but I killed two raccoons round the house which were after the chickens.

"The Mexicans spear fish and sharks here, using a spear after the kind made by the Eskimos, only of wood and rope.

"It is healthy on the coast with the sea breeze. It is awfully quiet, but the parrots, of which there are lots, make a noise at times.

"W. Davidson has nothing on me. I went duck hunting the first few weeks I was here.

"I was not molested by anyone on my way down here. I found my way round New York o.k. and walked up Broadway at night when all the lights were on, just like day; but it is no better sight than London, England.

"The suit case came in handy. I am ever so pleased about it.

"If it is at all possible, would be so pleased to have *The Beavers* sent me from January on. I would like to read all about the H.B.C.

"The Mexicans don't know what snow is. They feel the cold bad; wrap themselves up in blankets from head to feet; they look so funny and must feel miserable.

"Give my regards to all possible. I shall be pleased to hear from anyone and would answer every one for sure. Sinserely yours, Winsloe Kerrison."

Winnipeg

Wholesale

We much regret that our general manager, C. W. Veysey, has been on the sick list for some weeks. At the time of writing we understand his condition is improving and we trust it will not be long before he is once more able to take his place at the helm.

Land Department

Winnipeg

ANNUAL BANQUET

The annual banquet of the Land department was held on Wednesday evening, April 23rd, in the Company's dining room at the store. The affair was highly successful in every respect, and everyone present had a most enjoyable and entertaining time. About seventy guests sat down to the dinner, including Mr. Harman, Land Commissioner, members of the Fur Trade and representatives from the other departments.

The Land Department Concert Party provided the musical programme in the form of a revue given in pierrot costume. A. E. Bridgwater acted as musical director and the balance of the troupe comprised Mrs. W. Everitt, Misses Bigelow, Henderson and Peters, Messrs. B. A. Everitt, Swindell, Nicholls, McQuiston and W. Everitt. They were assisted by Miss "Jimmy" Arkless, who gave a sweet and dainty interpretation of an Irish dance. Miss Anderson rendered a pianoforte solo in brilliant fashion and well modulated rhythm. This little organisation is to be highly complimented on its outstanding performance. It would be a credit on any concert platform and it ought not to be allowed to drop, for it contains the nucleus of something well worth while. It would be invidious to signal any of the performers, for there was not a weak item on the entire programme.

Messrs. Nicholson, Fairs and Miller, comprising the "ways and means" committee, are also to be congratulated on the excellent bill of fare provided and on the general arrangements made for the comfort of the guests. The programme was nicely and originally designed, the artists being "Jimmy" Arkless and B. A. Everitt.

Mr. Bellingham acted as chairman and toastmaster. He also presented the curling prizes to the winning rink, which was skipped by C. E. Joslyn. The other gentlemen on this winning rink were C. A. Miller, W. Everitt and S. E. Fairs.

Fur Trade

Little Grand Rapids

(*Keewatin District*)

Little Grand Rapids, Keewatin district, is situated about one hundred miles east of Beren's river, Lake Winnipeg, and about half-way between Beren's River post and Deer Lake post. It was built about seventy-six years ago. Jno. R. Moar, who is in charge, has worked for over forty years with the Hudson's Bay Company and, although he is now advanced in years, is still able to hold his own with the best dog driver in the country. His father was in charge of Little Grand Rapids for forty-five years. He retired about seventeen years ago, and now resides at Pigeon Bluff, West Selkirk.

A happy event took place at Little Grand Rapids on the 24th February, when the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Moar and D. Paterson were quietly married by Rev. J. W. Niddrie, of Beren's River. Miss Jessie Moar acted as bridesmaid and F. Distrowe as groomsman.

Tell 'Em So

By S2

(*Inspired by a recent article in The Beaver*)

If your flour is full of weevil
Or has moistened to a dough,
Do not seek to hide the evil.
Tell 'em so!

If your butter's green and rancid
Where the woolly whiskers grow,
Do not say "That's only fancied."
Tell 'em so!

If your hardware's got all rusted,
Moth nests in your calico,
And your canned goods blown and busted,
Tell 'em so!

Tell the truth and shame the devil;
For your pluck you'll be admired.
But I'll bet a ten-spot, level,
You'll be fired!

The Christie Family and H.B.C.

In August, 1923, issue of *The Beaver* there is an article on "The Christie Family and H.B.C." It has just come to our notice that reference is made to John George McTavish Christie as being the last of the family to serve the Company.

This, of course, is incorrect, as C. T. Christie is still a valued servant of the Company, having a record of thirty-nine years consecutive service. He is presently filling the post of accountant in the western Arctic district at Aklavik headquarters.

C. T. Christie received the Company's gold medal and one bar during the 250th anniversary celebrations of 1920.

Winnipeg

There has been an unusually large influx of fur trade visitors to Winnipeg during the past four weeks.

George Watson, of James Bay, arrived here March 15th, and remained for three or four days.

V. W. West left for McMurray on 18th March.

Mr. Harding returned to Winnipeg March 27th, having enjoyed some four months' leave of absence in England. He was accompanied from Montreal by Messrs. Bastow and Whiteway, both of Nelson River district. They all left April 4th for York Factory in company with J. T. Ross, engineer of the *Fort York*.

H. S. Russell, of Rupert's House, arrived in Winnipeg April 3rd for surgical attention. A piece of shrapnel, which had been worrying him since he was wounded in France in 1916, was removed from his spine, and he is now convalescing at St. Boniface hospital.

L. McRae and E. M. Badger have been engaged for service as apprentice clerks for Saskatchewan and Lake Superior districts respectively.

Miss Lumbers left the Fur Trade Commissioner's office March 26th for an ex-

tended leave of absence necessitated by ill health.

Miss Marion Ross, daughter of T. Ross, formerly dry goods manager of the Winnipeg wholesale department, is now a member of the fur trade staff.

The dry goods, hardware, boots and shoes and stationery departments of the Winnipeg depot have now become a unit of the fur trade and the staff in the fur trade general office has been augmented by the transfer of three ladies and three gentlemen from the depot office.

Competition Results

The prize of $2 offered in the competition propounded in the February issue of *The Beaver* has been forwarded to R. G. Dunn, 1919 Fernwood Road, Victoria, his envelope being the first opened to contain the correct answer.

The following also sent the correct solution: Chas. R. Francis, Winnipeg; No name; Elsie Child, Vancouver; T. Ruttle, London, England; K. M. Kiddie, The Pas, Manitoba; M. J. Moulder, Winnipeg; E. M. Dennis, Ottawa; E. C. W. Lamargue, Vancouver.

Solution—We call the age of the monkey when its mother was three times as old as the monkey, m. Its mother's age was then $3m$, and the difference in their ages is therefore $2m$. When the monkey is three times as old as its mother was, it will be $9m$. When the mother is half as old as this, she will be $4\frac{1}{2}m$. At this time the monkey will be two years younger, or $2\frac{1}{2}m$. The mother is twice as old as this, which is $5m$. The monkey is $2m$ years younger, and is therefore $3m$. The combined ages of the monkey and its mother are $8m$, and, as $8m$ equals 4 years, m equals half a year.

The mother is $5m$, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and, as the weight of the monkey is as many pounds as its mother is years old, the

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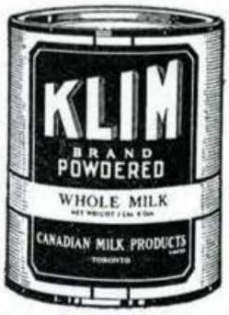

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monkey weighs 2½ pounds, as also does the weight.

Putting *r* for rope, we have:

$$r + 2\tfrac{1}{2} = 1\tfrac{1}{2} \times 2\tfrac{1}{2} = 3\tfrac{3}{4}$$

$$r = 1\tfrac{1}{4} \text{ lbs.} = 20 \text{ oz.}$$

As 1 foot of rope weighs 4 ounces, the length of the rope is $20 \div 4 = 5$ feet.

The Beaver

(*A Journal of Progress*)

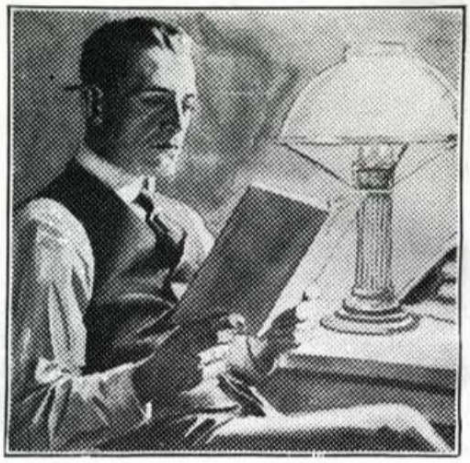
By GEO. R. RAY, Moose Factory

This journal is published for all;
So let writer and reader adorn it;
And let none have perception so small
To deride or unjustly to scorn it—
Finding fault with this line or that tale,
This verse and the moral it carries.
So, remember, when out on *Grouch Trail*,
We can't all be Londons or Barries.

Not authors, but traders are we;
The few who indite for these pages
May have mastered the plain rule of three,
But not all the learning of sages.
If you'd read us through clear, kindly specs
With a cheery and just mental action,
Our efforts no longer would vex,
And we'd each give much more satisfaction.

There's a common old saying, "Don't knock"—
We'd do well if we kept this in mind;
'Tis easy to jeer and to mock,
But as easy as not to be kind.
And in practice we'll find in the main
The effort we use to disparage
Is as great a cerebral strain
As the words we may say to encourage.

The matter we print in these pages—
Like these verses, for instance, of mine—
Though the cause of jibes, jeers and mad rages,
Have cost someone effort and time.
Wishy-washy sometimes you describe them—
And I don't doubt your judgment a bit.
But we're doing our best to inscribe them;
If you can do better, DO IT.



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☐ Traffic Management	☐ Better Letters
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☐ Accountancy	☐ Show Card Lettering
☐ Nicholson Cost Acc'ting	☐ Stenography & Typing
☐ Bookkeeping	☐ Common Sch'l Subjects
☐ Business English	☐ High School Subjects
☐ Private Secretary	☐ Illustrating
☐ Spanish	☐ Cartooning

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☐ Mechanical Engineer	☐ Concrete Builder
☐ Mechanical Draftsman	☐ Structural Engineer
☐ Machine Shop Practice	☐ Plumbing and Heating
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☐ Gas Engine Operating	☐ Chemistry
☐ Civil Engineering	☐ Pharmacy
☐ Surveying and Mapping	☐ Automobile Work
☐ Min.Eng.or Metallurgist	☐ Navigation
☐ Steam Engineer	☐ Agriculture & Poultry
☐ Radio	☐ Mathematics
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